28th January 1929]

Mr. ABDUL HAMID KHAN :—" If that is so, what is the reason for the Home Member ignoring the claims of the gentleman who has acted once or twice ? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—" I am sorry I cannot give the information as my recommendation to His Excellency is confidential."

Budget

Utilization of the amount released by the remission of provincial contribution.

* 1019 Q.—Mr. P. C. VENKATAPATI RAJU : Will the hon. the Member for Finance be pleased to state how the additional amount released this year by the remission of contribution by this Province to the India Government is utilized or is proposed to be utilized during the current year ?

A.—The budget for the current year, as presented to the Legislative Council, provided for the Provincial contribution of Rs. 48·73 lakhs to the Government of India as an item of expenditure, and showed a deficit of 50·20 lakhs. The effect of the permanent remission of this contribution which was announced by the Government of India after the budget had been prepared and the voting of further demands by the Council was to reduce the deficit which would have to be met by drawing on the opening balance to Rs. 8·30 lakhs.

Investment of Government deposits in the Postal Savings Bank.

* 1020 Q.—Mr. S. N. DORAI RAJA : Will the hon. the Member for Finance be pleased—

(i) to lay on the table a statement of lapsed deposits on 1st April 1928 in each district ; and

(ii) to state what action in detail has been taken by Government on the suggestion made by me on 13th March 1928 regarding the investment of all deposits entrusted to the civil, revenue and criminal courts, in the Postal Savings Banks or in the Post Office Cash Certificate system and the issue of registered notices to the parties concerned ?

A.—(i) A statement [a] obtained from the Accountant-General is enclosed, showing the lapsed deposits on 31st March 1928 in each district which have been adjusted to the credit of Government in accordance with article 359 of the Madras Financial and Account Code.

(ii) The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the answer given to Legislative Council question No. 815 at the meeting held on 31st March 1927. Under certain Acts, such as the Land Acquisition Act, money received by courts can be invested in securities approved by them. There is also nothing to prevent courts ordering the deposit in a bank of moneys in dispute produced before them, provided all the parties concerned consent. All such money as is not invested has to be remitted to the treasury to the credit of deposits, and it is not open to the Local Government to withdraw the amounts from the

[a] Printed as Appendix III on page 129 infra.